## STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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## NORTON ELECTED CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Colorado's Lt. Governor Assumes National Leadership Role

DENVER - Lieutenant Governor Jane E. Norton was recently elected chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA). The NLGA, organized in 1962, is the professional association for the elected officials who are next in line of succession to the governors in the 50 states and five territorial jurisdictions. The organization focuses on issues in state and territorial government including the nation's war on drugs, the future cost and reliability of energy, developing state international trade and homeland security.

As the chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association, Norton will lead national discussions on critical issues ranging from education reform and health care, to the economy and the importance of strengthening state and federal government relations. In this leadership role, Norton will bring national attention to issues of importance to Colorado including aerospace, the environment, and homeland security. Current NLGA discussions on mental health services and combating substance abuse will also benefit state agencies working with Lieutenant Governors across the country to address these growing concerns.

The NLGA provides members the opportunity for the exchange of best practices, fostering interstate cooperation, and promoting the effectiveness of the Office of Lieutenant Governor in serving their constituents. As a national organization, the NLGA also provides resources and information on the tools available to meet the growing needs of state government.

"NLGA is a vital forum where we can exchange ideas and discuss issues important to our states," said Norton. "The NLGA provides lieutenant governors with a wealth of information that will help them play an increasingly active role in enhancing services and expanding opportunities in their regions."

Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado's 46<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by promoting adoption, early childhood care and education efforts/initiatives, mentoring and volunteerism; and serving as Colorado's delegate to the Aerospace States Association and chair of the Colorado Space Coalition.